

# The South

## Chapter 10

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# Similarities/Differences from the North

## Similarities:

- Geographic sizes
- Ideology
- Religion
- Language
- Constitution and attitude towards government
- Inspiration from western movement
- Nationalism
- Economy
- Distribution of wealth and property (most of the nation's wealth was held by the richest 1%)

## Differences:

- Due to climate, the South was more agriculture-based
- Larger societal gap between races in the South (slave-based culture)
- Much denser populations in the North
- Institutions were less developed in the South (schools, churches, libraries, etc)
- More factories in the North, more plantations in the South
- South contained far less of the transportation network
- Less industry in the South
- More foreign-born people in the North

# Pro-Slavery Worldview

People had a pro-slavery worldview because:

- There was deep-rooted racism throughout the country
- Slavery was a very important part of the economy
- Argued that it was supported by the Bible
- Believed that some things were not meant to be changed (tradition)
- Considered slaves to be legal property
- Argued that “natural state of people is inequality”



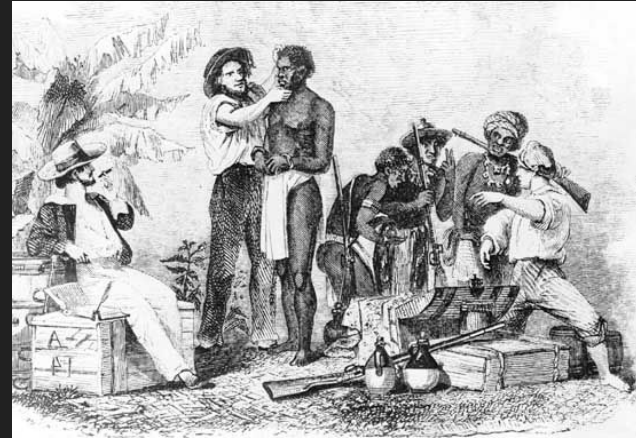
# A Slave Society

(n.) a society where the fundamental class conflict is based on the division of people into masters and slaves, with slaves being the dominant producing class

[marxists.org](http://marxists.org)

- In the Old South, slaves influenced nearly every aspect of whites' lives, both slaveholding and not.
  - ◆ Socialization, marriage, the raising of children, jobs, economy, culture, ownership of property, and many more aspects were controlled by the ownership of slaves.
- Though many aspects of northern system were rejected (especially urbanism), southerners depended on northern banks steamship companies to keep the cotton trade flowing.

*“Slavery was the pivot around which everything revolved.” ( A People, p. 251)*



[britannica.com](http://britannica.com)

- Despite their interdependence with the north, the growth and production of crops in the south relied heavily on the work of its slaves.
- The necessity of slaves created what is known as a “slave society”, where the society would not exist without slaves.

# Yeoman Farmers

- Yeoman farmers are farmers (mainly men) of the south who owned their own land.
- They did all of the work on the farm by themselves; they did not own slaves to do the work.
- The men of the family did the vigorous work, including clearing fields, building log cabins, and establishing the farm.
- The yeomen were usually subsistence farmers, meaning they only grew what was needed for them and their families.
- The women spent most of their time making the meals, giving birth, and taking care of the children.



<http://www.conservapedia.com/Yeoman>

# Free Blacks

- In 1860 there approximately 250,000 free blacks in the South.
- A large number of these blacks were considered mulattos; having one black parent and one (usually rich) white parent.
- Even though the mulattos were “half” black, they were still mistreated in Southern cities.
- The blacks banded together in the South, forming a number of churches in major cities like Baltimore and Louisville.
- The whites treated all blacks, including mulattos, poorly; any “racial mixture” made them worthy of slavery.

# Sandy Ground

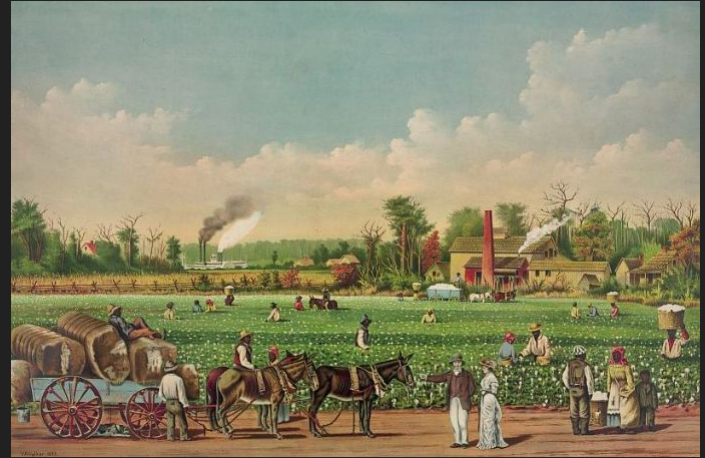


[http://maap.columbia.edu/mbi\\_place/42.html](http://maap.columbia.edu/mbi_place/42.html)



- Slaveholding planters were “at the top of the southern social pyramid”
- They generally lived well in farmhouses (not the grand plantation mansions that are usually pictured)
- The average slaveholder was not particularly wealthy; in 1850,
  - 50% of slaveholders owned less than 5 slaves
  - 28% owned 10 or more slaves
  - 12% owned 20 or more slaves
- Nearly (if not all) slaveholders were most concerned about the profit they earned from their slaves’ work; this led to emotionless acts upon slaves.
- The most rich planters displayed their wealth with elaborate social events and parties; the amount of land, grandness of the house, and the number and state of the slaves were great determinants of wealth.

## The Planter’s Culture



loc.gov

*“[Louisiana cotton planter Bennet Barrow] could report the loss of a slave without feeling, but emotion broke through his laconic manner when illness afflicted his sporting animals.” (A People, p. 262)*

# The Planter's Families

- Slaveholding men often embraced a paternalistic ideology that justified their dominance over both slaves and women
- They stressed their family duties more than they stressed their work duties
- They saw themselves as a benevolent guardian of an inferior race
- Their daughters typically attended boarding schools and had to follow the wishes of their family, typically the father
- After marriage, a woman would concede all her rights to her husband
- In 1840 the birth rate for white southern women was 30% higher than the national average, the average southern white women would bear around 8 children in 1800; decreasing to around 6 by 1860

# Plantation Economy

- Many slaveholders took out mortgages on their slaves and used them as collateral
- Slaves were a “commodity and an investment, much like gold”
- Cash crops like cotton were used for export
- The crops value was dependent on world trade, especially with Europe
- After Eli Whitney’s cotton gin was invented, American cotton production doubled in yield each decade after 1800 and provided 3/4th of the world’s supply by 1840
- By 1850 one of every 7 workers in England depended on American cotton for their job
- In 1860, in dollars, a slave’s total work value as property was estimated to be a \$3.5 billion, in modern day about \$70 billion
- Because the South was so dependent on cotton, when it collapsed it was devastating to their economy

# Conditions of Slaves

- Food was very minimal and non nutritious
- Clothing was plain, coarse, and inexpensive
  - Only had about two changes of clothes to last them through hot and cold seasons
  - Didn't really have shoes until they were free
- Mostly lived in a one room cabin
  - Two families lived in one
    - Sickness
- Hardwork
  - "Sun to Sun"
  - Everyone had to work
  - Motives
  - whipping
- Relationships between master could differ



# Culture of Slaves

- In the 1830s, the majority were native born Americans
  - Slave trade was shut down
  - Was both african americans and Americans
  - Racial identity
- Music, religion and folk tales were apart of daily life
  - Music
    - Developed a sacred world view
    - Instruments were carved to resemble African string instruments
    - Had dancing and drumming patterns that left the whites astonished
  - Religion
    - Spirit possession
    - Christianity
      - Believed that Jesus cared about their souls and their plight
      - Personal and group salvation
    - Spirituals devoted to God

# Slave Economy

Slave economies typically created larger scale cities, but in the south cities were smaller and had greater diversity.

The southern economy relied greatly on plantation life, especially cotton.

Slave grown cotton counted for over half of all US exports.

Most cotton used in the textile industry in the north was provided by slave plantations.

# Slave Rebellions

## Gabriel Prosser's Rebellion -- 1800

- Led by Prosser, a blacksmith, and his brother, a slave preacher.
- A thousand slaves recruited to march on Richmond.
- On the day of the revolt, a storm washed out the roads and Prosser was betrayed by one of his men. He and many of his followers were hanged.

## Slave rebellion in St. John the Baptist Parish -- Jan 8-10, 1811

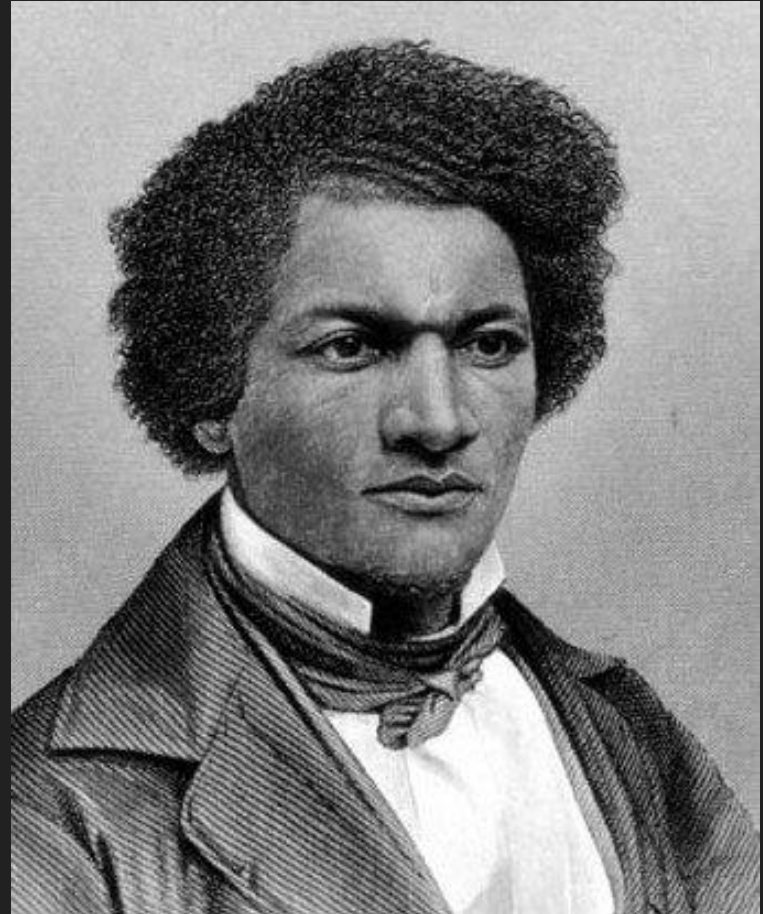
- 500 slaves participated
- 100 slaves were killed

## Nat Turner's Revolt -- August, 1831

- **Turner, a slave preacher, inspired slaves to strike down white slave-owning families.**
- **The slaves and Turner moved from farm to farm, slaughtering families.**
- **Turner was eventually captured and hanged.**

# Denmark Vesey

Denmark Vesey was a slave that bought himself his freedom in 1800 after winning the lottery. He was most known for being the primary organizer of what had the potential to be the biggest slave revolt in American history. Vesey preached to African Americans, comparing them to the Israelites, who's, in the Bible, enslavement God would punish with death. The revolt Vesey planned called for the uprising of nearly 9,000 slaves, and the goal was to kill Charleston's governor, burn the city, and kill every white man they saw. The uprising was planned to take place on July 14, 1822, but several fearful slaves told their masters about the plan, which resulted in Vesey's arrest, along with numerous others who supported the revolt. On July 2nd, Vesey was hanged. In the aftermath of the planned uprising, the African church was burned, more laws were passed to restrict African Americans, but Vesey also became known as a martyr for his cause.



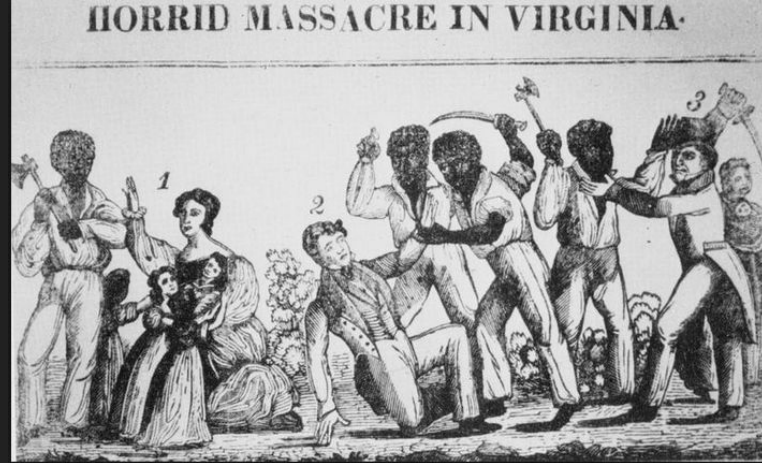




[Image Source](#)

# Nat Turner

[Image Source](#)



Nat Turner was an enslaved African American from Virginia. On August 22, 1831, he led a rebellion. During the two day rebellion, sixty whites were murdered. As retaliation, slaveholders throughout the south randomly murdered their own slaves. In the end, around two hundred African American slaves were killed. Turner was eventually caught and hanged. The aftermath included restrictions on slave education and religious practice. In 1832, Virginia proposed gradual emancipation, the last time it was debated by the south until the Civil War.